
A Historic Day for Democracy in Iraq

Millions of Iraqis turned out to vote on Saturday, embracing the democratic process, to vote on their national constitution.

- While final results will not be known until later this week, the broad turnout of voters, amid relatively low levels of violence, is in itself a milestone of progress on Iraq's path to democracy and security.

- The Independent Electoral Commission of Iraq (IECI) prepared more than 6,000 polling places; trained 171,000 poll workers; and accredited almost 200,000 observers, including more than 600 international observers.

- Turnout appears to have been strong nationwide, and much higher in Sunni-majority provinces than occurred in January.
- There were significantly fewer security incidents than in January.



Prepared by the Senate Republican Conference
Rick Santorum-Chairman, Kay Bailey Hutchison-Vice Chairman

The trial of Saddam Hussein for atrocities against the Iraqi people begins in the midst of a monumental step forward as a democracy - the referendum vote this past weekend.

- The Iraqi Special Tribunal (IST) is the independent tribunal established by the Iraqi Governing Council that will preside over Saddam Hussein's trial.
- Saddam Hussein and seven other defendants face charges, including crimes against humanity, for their role in a series of events in the village of Dujayl following a July 1982 attack on Saddam's motorcade.
- There are allegations that 550 men, women and children were arrested without warrants, and that torture, and extra-judicial killings followed.

Republicans have and will continue to support Iraq moving forward since the Transfer of Sovereignty to the Iraqi people in June of 2004:

- Iraqis held a landmark election in January where over eight million Iraqis voted in direct defiance of the threats issued by the terrorists.
- Almost 200,000 Iraqi Security Forces have been trained and equipped and are actively engaged in providing security throughout their country.
- Critical infrastructure is being upgraded and built and the Iraqi economy is growing. Iraq will hold December elections to further develop their democracy.

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